At page 36, line 1, after the description of Figure 14 as amended above, please amend the next paragraph as follows:

A3 (Amended) Figure [13] 15 is a graph of mean Rewet values and 95% confidence intervals for samples of Example 1.

At page 36, line 3, after the description of Figure 15 as amended above, please amend the next paragraph as follows:

A4 (Amended) Figure [14] 16 is a table of physical property results for Examples 3-6.

At page 36, line 4, after the description of Figure 16 as amended above, please amend the next paragraph as follows:

A5 (Amended) Figure [15] 17 is a table of physical property results for Examples 7-10.

At page 36, line 4, after the description of Figure 17 as amended above, insert the following descriptions of new Figures 18 and 19:

Figure 18 depicts an apertured hydrophobic web superposed over a basesheet according to the present invention.

A6 Figure 19 depicts an apertured basesheet having protrusions about the apertures, the basesheet further comprising hydrophobic matter on the most elevated portions of the basesheet.

At page 54, line 15, insert the following two paragraphs describing new Figures 18 and 19:

A7 FIG. 18 depicts a perspective view of a fibrous nonwoven web 60 comprising apertures 61, as in FIG. 14, except that the apertured web 60 is now shown joined to a textured basesheet 1 and the assembly is in contact with an underlying absorbent core 5. Apertures 61 in the nonwoven web 60 are substantially aligned with the depressed regions 4 of the basesheet 1. The nonwoven web 60 serves as a hydrophobic matter 2 on the most elevated portions 3 of the basesheet 1.

FIG. 19 depicts a cross-sectional view of an apertured basesheet 1 similar to that of the basesheet 1 of FIG. 5 except that the perforations 27 (apertures in the basesheet) have been formed in a manner that creates protrusions 70 extending from the lower portion of the basesheet and surrounding the apertures 70. The protrusions 70 can be wet resilient if formed in a moist state and dried.

Due to changes in pagination of the specification required by the foregoing insertions, a substitute (clean) copy of the entire specification reflecting all the foregoing amendments is enclosed.

In The Drawings

Add new Figures 18 and 19, enclosed.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-35 and 38-39 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed thereby. Claims 36 and 37 are retained.

Please add the following new claims:

40. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein said basesheet is a wet-laid tissue sheet.

41. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein said web is an airlaid structure.

42. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the hydrophobic matter is discontiguous.

43. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein said hydrophobic matter comprises synthetic fibers fixedly attached to the upper surface of said basesheet such that about 50% or less of the surface area of the basesheet is covered with the synthetic fibers.

44. (New) The method of claim 36 further comprising hydrophobic matter on a portion of the lower surface of said basesheet.

45. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein said elevated regions comprise from 5 to 300 protrusions per square inch having a characteristic height of at least 0.2 mm relative to said depressed regions.

46. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein at least 30% of the upper surface of said basesheet remains substantially free of hydrophobic matter and said web has a Rewet value of 0.6 g or less.

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47. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein essentially all of said hydrophobic matter resides above the 50% material line of a characteristic cross-section of said web.

48. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the superficial basis weight of said hydrophobic matter is from about 1 to about 10 gsm and said basesheet has a basis weight of from about 10 to about 70 gsm.

A clean version of the pending claims is attached and made a part hereof.